

Media diversity, please!

I 'm writing in regards to Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. If its supposed goals are really to promote competition, diversity and localism in the current media market as stated, then the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules that are presently being questioned. These rules limit the marketing power of massive companies in the broadcast industry that would like to gobble up anything smaller than them. Thus, the rules insure that public interest is served.

The studies commissioned by the FCC DO NOT accurately show the disastrous affects media deregulation and consolidation have already had on media diversity. Although there are certainly more sources of media than ever before, the breadth of the views they portray has vastly narrowed.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest is best served by preserving the media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, the FCC should also hold hearings in other places around the nation in order to encourage the widest possible participation from the public who are the ones most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. It's exceedingly important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those who have financial interests in this issue, but also those with social and civic interests.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it's critical that the Commission take the time to review these issues more closely and thoroughly and allow the American people, the recipients of what's sent out on the airwaves, to have a legitimate voice in what happens.

Thank you for taking the time to consider alternatives.

Sincerely, Dana Galbavy